

Air Force Prime Time, a weekly news magazine for and about airmen stationed overseas, airs Thursday 8:25 p.m. Central European Time on AFN television. In this week's edition, a Spangdahlem captain goes the distance, Air Force traffic controllers learn to do their job the Slovak way, the modified KC-135 refueler and more.

News briefs

LSN shuttles

The transportation squadron operates two shuttle routes starting Tuesday for the Local Salty Nation exercise next week.

A "Park 'n' Ride" shuttle transports people from building 115 (damage control center), the softball field near the base hospital, the housing office and Popeye's to building 217 (mobility processing center).

A "Base X" shuttle transports people from building 217 to the exercise play area entry control point near Hangar 1.

The shuttles stop at each designated pick-up location every 15 minutes from 2:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-8:30 p.m. The shuttles run periodically, as required, during other times.

Desert mail

Saudi Arabian customs officials who screen all U.S. mail flowing into Prince Sultan Air Base are confiscating any Santa Claus related items, according to Lt. Col. Michael McCullough, 363rd Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander.

As a result, people are asked not to send these items, including gift-wrap. Confiscated items are not returned.

Awards presentation

The personnel and training managers of the year award ceremony takes place at 2 p.m. Nov. 17 in the base officers' club. Call Staff Sgt. Ethan Allen at 452-5519 for more information.

AADD e-mail

Airmen Against Drunk Driving established an e-mail account for people to use when volunteering as drivers or charge-of-quarters. To volunteer, send e-mail to aadd@spangdahlem.af.mil. Call Senior Airman Michelle Almarode at 452-6656 for

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Eifel Times

Vol. 34, Issue 42

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Nov. 10, 2000

Beyond 3,000

Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Dorman, 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing tactical aircraft maintenance technician, prepares a 22nd Fighter Squadron F-16 for its next sortie at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. A block 50 F-16CJ assigned to the 22nd FS recently broke the 3,000-hour mark while on combat patrol in support of Operation Southern Watch. See "Big 22's block 50 reaches 3,000 hours," on Page 4 to find out more.

Master Sgt. Julie Foglesong

Bitburg teacher earns DODDS honors

By 1st Lt. Angela Johnson
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Hope Matthews is no ordinary high school music teacher — she's a friend, mentor, coach, tutor and the DODDS Brussels District Teacher of the Year.

Matthews was chosen because she is an outstanding representative of Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the teaching profession and the Eifel community, according to a press release put out by the Brussels District announcing the award.

"This was the best decision," said Katie Carr, a Bitburg High School sophomore. "She helps out our school in a lot of things — sports, band, choir, plays and more."

Other students and teachers alike agree with Carr.

"It's wonderful — there are many teachers out there who

deserve the honor and Mrs. Matthews represents all of us," said Leanne Pope, a German teacher at the school. "My daughter has her as a teacher and loves her. She inspires the kids."

Matthews has a bachelor's degree in music education from Weber State University, Ogden, Utah, and a master's degree in adult and higher education from the University of Oklahoma in Europe. To complement her degrees, she has 22 years of teaching experience.

Students and faculty say she is an enthusiastic teacher and shows she really cares about her students.

Spending an afternoon with her at school offers a glimpse of what distinguishes her as the Brussels District teacher of the year. Just walking to the classroom from lunch, Matthews was

See Matthews, Page 2

Commissary focus group suggestions increase hours, variety

Commissary customers voiced their opinions about their Bitburg and Spangdahlem stores during a special focus group Oct. 23.

"While we have begun to hold focus groups ourselves, this one was facilitated by Patt Courter (wife of Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter, Jr., U.S. Air Force director of the Defense Commissary Agency headquartered in Virginia)," said Ken Mitchell, Eifel commissaries director.

When touring European commissary operations, the Courters use focus groups to get in touch with commissary customers, especially the young enlisted members and their families. While many casual conversations with customers take place in

the aisles of the stores they visit, the majority of the information is gathered via the focus groups.

A commissary customer herself for many years, Courter starts the sessions with a written survey and then asks questions and listens to focus group members' ideas or suggestions.

"The Bitburg/Spangdahlem communities were the first of 13 to have the opportunity to be heard during this trip, and I am pleased with the outcome," Courter said.

Focus group members include ranks ranging from airman first class to lieutenant colonel. The mix of spouses and active-duty military members gave the Bitburg and

Spangdahlem commissaries high marks.

"This is the best commissary I've shopped in during my whole career," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Graham.

"The Bitburg commissary could be used as a model for other stores to follow," said another focus group member.

While the quality of the stores, their services and atmosphere were highly praised, members offered ideas for improvement and asked questions to better understand store operations.

One customer asked if Spangdahlem's Thursday hours could be extended to 8 p.m. to accommodate shift workers. The suggestion was found workable and the

store permanently implements the change Thursday.

Additionally, a change to the store's Sunday hours to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. took place this past weekend as a direct result of a customer request.

A vegetarian among the group requested more vegetarian selections. There are currently 300 line items of vegetarian-type products available in the Eifel commissaries.

As a result of the focus group suggestion, 10 more frozen items are added to the assortment, including the vegetarian

See Commissary, Page 3

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

details.

Bill payments

The government travel card offers a split disbursement feature allowing members to designate a specific dollar amount from the proceeds of a travel voucher to be sent directly to Bank of America to pay the balance.

Members can also request interim monthly payments to be sent to Bank of America when on extended TDYs greater than 45 days.

To take advantage of this feature, check the split disbursement block and list the amount to be sent on the travel voucher.

Commemoration march

The European World War II Preservation Society co-sponsors a Battle of the Bulge commemoration march at 8 a.m. Dec. 9 in Bastogne, Belgium.

This year marks the 56th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, which took place 1944-1945. The march honors the defenders of Bastogne.

For 22 years, this march honoring the heroic actions of American soldiers, attracts veterans and other participants throughout Europe, according to Ed Lapotsky, society coordinator and event assistant organizer. Participants will join others on a 20-kilometer march through the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 101st Airborne Division defensive perimeter.

Marchers also receive a commemorative certificate. Participants wanting a personalized certificate of their participation in the march must register by Nov. 20. Early registration can be done by contacting a preservation society representative.

Registration also takes place 7-7:45 a.m. at the Taverne L'Europa on McAuliffe Square. A registration fee of 50 Belgian Franks covers insurance and other event costs.

Call Ed Lapotsky at 06507-8292 or 06507-802616 for more information or to register.

USAFE holiday mailing

Europe to the United States 2000 holiday mailing deadlines are as follows:

- Space-available mail, Nov. 20
- Parcel-airlift mail, Dec. 4
- First-class letters, Dec. 11
- Express mail, Dec. 18

The above dates are only for mail from APO/FPO to CONUS addresses.

Call the Spangdahlem post office at 452-7182 or Bitburg at 453-9506 for more information.

Matthews

Continued from Page 1

stopped no less than eight or nine times by a student or teacher who had a question or just wanted to say hi. She took the time to talk to each of them.

Once she got to class, her enthusiasm bubbled over as she taught her students some new marching techniques she learned at a conference the previous week.

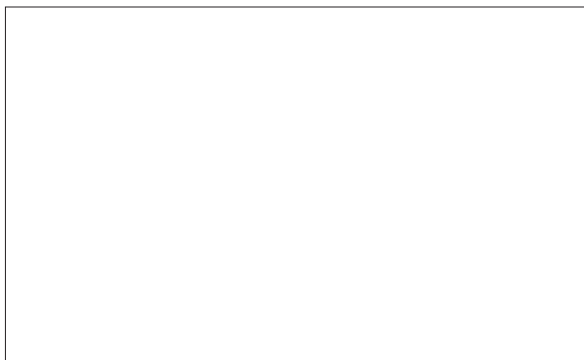
"I love teaching," Matthews said. "I enjoy working with my students and I am genuinely interested in who they are. Teaching music is the greatest job in the world. I don't think of it as a job most of the time — it is part of my life — an enjoyable part."

Matthews teaches about 160 students on a two-day rotation. She teaches two bands, a choir and semester classes of music appreciation and classical guitar. Next semester, she'll teach piano and computer music.

In addition to teaching, she's actively involved in the school and community as Bitburg High School's key communicator.

"This (key communicator) is a leadership role for the School Home Community Partnership, which allows me the opportunity to chat with people about ideas and suggestions they would like to see happen in the school," Matthews said.

Along with being the key communicator, she is also the director for student musical productions at BHS, the girls' softball team coach, a cheerleading coach for three years and the spirit coordinator for the school. As a member of the School



1st Lt. Angela Johnson

Bitburg High School teacher, Hope Matthews, conducts the school band during practice.

Improvement Leadership team, she assists with presenting "Life after Bitburg High School," an informative seminar about discovering possibilities and high-lighting solutions for students' continued success after their high school years.

Matthews directs the Sky-larks, a women's singing group sponsored by the Officer and Civilian Spouses Club, supports the Little League Association with fund-raising events and is often invited to German and American events as a guest performing artist and music director. She was also the choir director for the Spangdahlem base chapel.

Outside school and volunteerism, Matthews is a wife and a mother of two children.

"My life is a family project," she said. "I couldn't do anything if my family wasn't involved. My husband is always the brawn — he moves more

things and sets up more risers. My children are also always involved. If we do a project, it's always a whole family thing.

"I couldn't be where I am today without the help of my family — Rick, Rachel and Jordan. I love my family and my job. I feel lucky to have the type of job you look forward to getting up for."

Matthews said she wanted to be a teacher as early as first grade. Her favorite thing about teaching as a child was pretending to grade papers and write on the chalkboard, but as an adult she hates both.

"My favorite part is the kids," Matthews said.

The fact that she loves children shows in her work and with her selection as the Brussels District Teacher of the Year.

Accidents

By Tech. Sgt. Franklin McElhane
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

There was only one major accident in the Eifel region this past week involving an American.

The accident occurred on the Autobahn near Wittlich involving an American, driving a 1991 Toyota, and a German national, driving a green BMW. The American was exiting the Autobahn when the two drivers collided. The damage consisted of both vehicles being disabled.

In addition, there were 12 other minor accidents:

- Two of the accidents involved government vehicles.
- Half of the accidents were in parking lots (dining hall, Bitburg BX, etc.).
- Half of the accidents occurred on-base.
- The damage estimate for minor accidents this week totaled \$5,950.

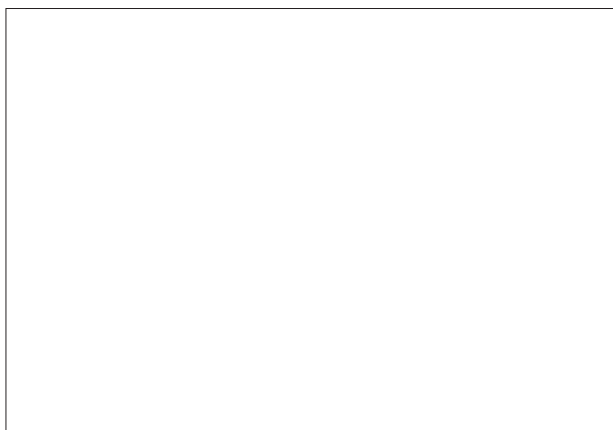
Commander emphasizes parental roles in schools

Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, issued a policy letter in July declaring school conferences and school meetings as official duty sites for military parents.

He further encouraged supervisors to grant leave for civilian parents to attend these events as well.

His policy reflects the guidance of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe

commander in which supervisors at all levels should seek ways to balance mission requirements and also support involvement in education when-ever possible.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Special day

Spangdahlem Sabers team members coach Special Children's Day participants on how to shoot a basketball. About 120 children from St. Martin's school in Bitburg and base schools took part in the event with the help of about 300 base volunteers on Spangdahlem Thursday.

Base water line project to impact various roads



(Editor's note: SPANGDAHLEM Under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of various facility upgrades, road construction, detours, renovations and more, and how it impacts the people who live and work on base. Information for the column is provided by members of the 52nd

Civil Engineer Squadron.)

Project: Repair of Spangdahlem Air Base's existing water distribution system. The project is scheduled to take three years to accomplish. It includes the installation of new water storage tanks and a treatment system.

Location: The project includes replacement of all Spangdahlem water lines from the Binsfeld side of the base to the front side of the base.

Start date: Started in October

Completion date: July 2003

Cost: About 16 million DM funded by a U.S., NATO and Rhein-Main initiative.

Impact: Various services and roads on base will close as construction begins in those areas. People should drive cautiously around construction sites.

Act paves way for military participation in thrift plan

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Military members will be able to create their own retirement nest egg by using the Federal Employees Thrift Savings Plan beginning next year, DOD officials said.

A portion of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001 that President Bill Clinton signed Oct. 30 allows service members to participate in the civilian retirement plan, said Navy Capt. Elliott Bloxom, Department of Defense's director of military compensation.

The Thrift Savings Plan offers federal civilian employees the same type of savings and tax benefits many private corporations offer their employees under so-called "401(k)" plans. Money invested in the TSP comes from pre-tax dollars and reduces taxable income; investments and earnings are not taxed until they're withdrawn.

The plan has been in place since 1986.

The authorization act would allow active duty and Ready Reserve service members to invest up to 5 percent of their basic pay in the plan and all of any special and incentive pays they may receive-including bonuses, up to a total \$10,500 annual limit.

Civilians in the current Federal Employees Retirement System receive matching government funds in the TSP program. The investment benefit for the bulk of the military force, however, will resemble that of workers in the old Civil Service Retirement System. Those employees also have a 5 percent ceiling and receive no matching funds.

Service members may be eligible for matching funds in limited instances. Under the Special Retention Incentive portion of the legislation, members in certain critical specialties may receive matching funds based on their contributions from basic pay. In return, the member would have to agree to spend at least six years in the specialty.

"The match is discretionary by the service secretaries," Bloxom said. "We will be meeting with the services to determine how the services want to implement this. I would envision at this point the services would offer the match similar to the way they offer the selective re-enlistment bonus."

Bloxom said the services might offer TSP matches instead of a selective re-enlistment bonus, but nothing in the law says service members can't receive both.

The legislation calls for the plan to be implemented within 360 days of the signing of the legislation. "Of course, the critical date will be determined by when the (Federal

Retirement) Thrift Investment Board is able to provide timely and accurate services to our members," Bloxom said. "Accommodating DOD will double the number of individuals who are eligible to participate in the TSP. Right now, we envision members will be able to enroll in the TSP beginning in October 2001. That will mark the start of a special 60-day open season."

Participation is optional and not automatic. Service members who want to sign up or change their investment levels generally would do so during designated "open seasons."

"Actual cash contributions would not start until after that open season," Bloxom said. He estimated service members would actually begin investing by January 2002.

DOD officials are working with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the thrift investment board on how to get the whole program up and running. Forms and educational materials will go out to service members so they can make an informed choice during the open season.

The TSP program currently allows employees to invest in any or all of three mutual funds: government, corporate bond or stock.

Visit the Web site at www.tsp.gov for program details.

Commissary

Continued from Page 1

equivalents for chicken patties, chicken nuggets, hot wings and corn dogs. These new items will be available in stores Dec. 15. There will be continuous review of this category to meet increasing customer demand.

The members of the focus group inquired about expiration dates on dairy products such as yogurt. Yogurt is a date-sensitive product. Shelf life and freshness

dating of dairy products are critical to the consumer and the commissary. DeCA Europe will produce a brochure on this topic and distribute it by Jan. 15. Eifel commissaries started posting shelf-life information in the dairy section Monday.

Focus group members asked for more coupons. As a result, additional coupons will be available at the consumer corner in each store and at the family support center's coupon clubs in the Airman's Attics at Spangdahlem and Bitburg by

Dec. 1. DeCA regional headquarters will continue to work with manufacturers to increase the flow of coupons to Europe. Commissary customers are reminded coupons in overseas regions are honored for six months past the printed expiration date imposed upon stateside customers.

Several attendees stated they could buy some produce items cheaper at a local supermarket. A recent market basket survey indicated DeCA savings of 28 percent over commercial stores. DeCA

Europe will, however, continue conducting surveys in a variety of local stores and work with the terminal markets for the best quality and price. If the current suppliers can't obtain competitive prices, DeCA will procure products locally whenever necessary.

As the Courtiers departed Bitburg, focus group attendees left with the impression that "when we speak, the Courtiers do something about it."

'Big 22's' block 50 reaches 3,000 hours

Tail No. 827 breaks U.S. Air Forces in Europe flight record while on patrol

By Lt. Col. Jon Bitler
22nd Fighter Squadron commander

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia — Aircraft No. 90-0827 flew more than 3,000 hours Oct. 19, reaching a milestone in Air Force history.

The block 50 model F-16, assigned to the 22nd Fighter Squadron, broke the 3,000-hour mark while on combat patrol over the southern Iraqi skies in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Tail No. 827 arrived at Spangdahlem Air Base April 19, 1993, as one of the first block 50 versions of the F-16. The aircraft has a proud history with the "Big 22," completing its second tour in Operation Southern Watch and two tours in support of Operation Northern Watch in Turkey.

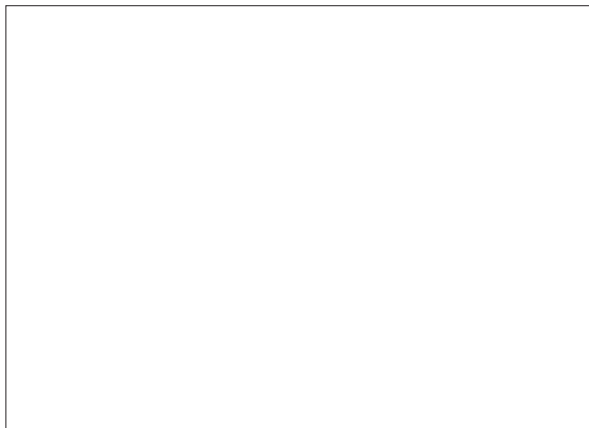
During the aircraft's first tour in Saudi Arabia, it surpassed its 2,000 hour mark, being the first in the U.S. Air Force to

accomplish this feat.

The combat record for aircraft No. 827 is also distinguished. It was one of the first NATO aircraft to cross into Yugoslavia on the first night of the war, March 24, in support of Operation Allied Force and continued flying numerous combat missions against Serbian military forces. Eight high-speed anti-radiation missiles were fired from aircraft No. 827 during the Kosovo campaign, supporting coalition aircraft striking military targets in and around Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The aircraft's dedicated crew chief, Airman 1st Class Jeffrey Dorman, is also setting records. While deployed, Dorman won the 363rd Expeditionary Operations Group airman of the month award for September.

During the past two months, Dorman and his launch assistant, Airman 1st Class Justin Buckwalter, have maintained 98.7 percent mission capable rate, providing 55 sorties and more than 106 hours in support of the mission.



Master Sgt. Julie Foglesong

F-16s taxi down the runway to prepare for take off from Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia.

USAFE, wing recognizes outstanding members

Officials from U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the 52nd Fighter Wing announce recent individual award winners and achievements in leadership, professionalism, innovation, quality assurance and skill.

Quarterly awards

■ Hans Dieter Merkes, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, junior-level civilian

■ Kenneth Taylor, 52nd Communications Squadron, mid-level civilian

■ Derek Johnston, 52nd Comptroller Squadron, senior-level civilian

■ Airman 1st Class Mars V.S. Hinton, 52nd Component Repair Squadron, airman category

■ Tech. Sgt. Frederick Soechting Jr., 52nd Operations Support Squadron, NCO category

■ Senior Master Sgt. Richard Aldridge, 52nd CES, senior NCO category

■ Capt. Matthew Wadd, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, company grade officer category

Special category award winners included:

■ Barbara Daly, 52nd SFS, volunteer of the quarter

■ Senior Airman Jason Graff, 52nd CES, honor guard member of the quarter

■ Master Sgt. Richard Chavez-Hatton,

606th Air Control Squadron, resource manager of the quarter

■ Tech. Sgt. Robert MacDonald Jr., 52nd CRS, foreign object damage fighter of the quarter

■ Regina Gray, 52nd Medical Group, Red Cross volunteer of the quarter

■ Dormitory 140, 52nd CS, dormitory of the quarter and recipient of \$1,000 for quality-of-life improvements

Idea awards

■ Tech. Sgt. David Nelson, 52nd Logistics Support Squadron, \$400

■ Tech. Sgt. Ronald Luvisi, 52nd Operations Group, \$200

■ Staff Sgt. Samuel McMillian, 52nd CRS, \$200

■ Staff Sgt. Frank Hatcher, 52nd CES, \$200

■ Staff Sgt. Gary Barkman, 52nd CRS, \$200

■ Senior Airman Robbie Britton, 52nd CRS, \$200

■ Senior Airman Christopher Strickland, 52nd EMS, \$200

■ Senior Airman James Vance, 52nd CES, \$200

Maintenance professional

■ Tech. Sgt. Roy Cline, 52nd EMS, NCO category

■ Airman 1st Class Pamela Troester,

52nd EMS, airman category

Outstanding USAFE Chaplain Services

■ Chaplain (Maj.) Karl Wiersum, chaplain category

■ Senior Airman Ronney Wilber, staff member category

Officer Training School selectees

■ Staff Sgt. Michael Stargell, 752nd Munitions Squadron

■ Senior Airman William Koch, 81st Fighter Squadron

■ Airman 1st Class Kimberlie Drews, 52nd Communications Squadron

"Well Done" coin recipients

■ Staff Sgt. Dominic Murphy, 52nd Medical Support Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. David Hensley, 52nd Logistics Support Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Mary Snead, 52nd Mission Support Squadron

■ Staff Sgt. Cornel Reyaud, 52nd CS

■ Staff Sgt. Stacy Garnes, Area

Defense Council

■ Senior Airman Kelli Bonyea, 52nd MSS

■ Senior Airman Amy Simpson, 52nd Dental Squadron

■ Airman 1st Class Mary Anne Williams, 52nd CPTS

■ Airman 1st Class Juanice Crimbley, 52nd CS

■ Airman 1st Class Machella Fields, 52nd Services Squadron

Artists, Craftsman contest

Adult fine art

■ Slanda Stanislaw — oil painting, "Lady in a Garden"

Adult textile art

■ Karen Knowles — Afghan, "Fan Crochet Afghan"

Adult multicrafts

■ Gisela Zaso — Clay pottery, "Angel Pair"

Youth fine art

■ Brookelle Stockton — Marker drawing, "Leo the Lion"

Youth multicrafts

■ Brookelle Stockton — Apple Head Doll, "King Saul"

Group I monochrome prints,

Category B, "People"

■ Michelle Roquid, "Innocence"

Group I monochrome prints,

Category C, "Nature/Scenic"

■ William Jackson, "French Boulevard"

Group II color prints

Category B, "People"

■ Esperanza Berrios, "Music in my Heart"

Group II color prints,

Category C, "Nature/Scenic"

■ William Jackson, "Venice"



Community Mailbox

Football championship

Bitburg High School (6-0) takes on rival Supreme Allied Powers Europe (5-1) at 1 p.m. Saturday for the Division II football championship.

In the Division II North conference championship game three weeks ago, the Barons handed SHAPE their only loss of the season, 21-6 at Bitburg.

The Barons are looking to repeat as conference champions without senior Kenny Friend, who broke his leg in the last game.

Toastmasters

The Eifel Toastmasters club meets at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the community activities center. For more information, call Master Sgt. Charles Shoulders, Toastmasters vice president for public relations, at 452-5635.

School news

The Native-American dance group, "Morning Stars," performs 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the Spangdahlem Middle School cafeteria.

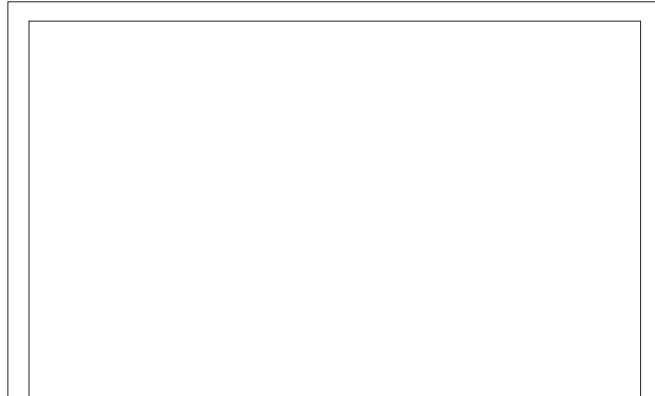
Turkey potluck

The Spangdahlem Elementary School Parent, Teacher and Student Association holds a "Thanks-for-Giving" turkey potluck at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. For more information or to volunteer, stop by the school volunteer center in building 424 (the old gym).

Family support center news

■Spouse's Day Out takes a trip to the Czech Republic Nov. 18. Call Angie Robinson at 453-7023 for details.

■Sponsor training takes place in building 307 each first and third Thursday



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Spouses night out

Tracey Pahel (center), Linda Sigrist and her son, Michael, enjoy a free dinner at the Mosel Dining Hall on base during Deployed Spouses Night Out. The first sergeant sponsored event provides parents who's spouse is deployed a break from the daily routine. The event also provided children's entertainment, including a visit from Sparky, the fire safety dog, and a magician who performed tricks at each table.

of the month.

■A home-buying seminars take place at 6 p.m. Nov. 28 in building 2001 on Bitburg.

■Military Family Week takes place Nov. 19-25. FSC activities include the Spangdahlem center serving cake and coffee during duty hours Nov. 20. The seminar, "Enjoy Europe Everyday," which offers traveling tips, takes place Nov. 20. Call for times.

■The Bitburg center open house takes place 2-7 p.m. Nov. 21. Activities include giveaways, face paintings and making holiday videos.

Call the Spangdahlem FSC at 452-6143 or Bitburg at 453-7491 to register for classes or for details.

Naming contest

The Spangdahlem Chapel sponsors a naming and logo design contest for its three-wheeled vehicle. Submit designs and

names to Chaplains (Majs.) Karl Wiersum or Patrick Ryan by Monday.

Winners get a free dinner for four at the Simonbrau Restaurant in Bitburg. Call the Spangdahlem Chapel at 452-6711 for details.

Volunteers needed

■For the Air Force-level base talent show taking place at 6 p.m. Thursday.

■For the Holiday Mini-Bazaar taking place Dec. 1-3 in the Spangdahlem community center.

■For the Bitburg tree lighting ceremony and reception taking place at 6 p.m. Dec. 6.

■For the Spangdahlem parade, tree lighting ceremony and reception taking place at various times and locations Dec. 7.

To volunteer for any of these events, call Jake Jacobs at 452-7381.

Adopt-a-cop

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron accepts applications for students in 5th-8th grade to participate in the adopt-a-cop program.

The program is designed to enhance relations between security forces members and the community and subsequently prevent and curtail juvenile crimes.

Call Senior Airman Samson McCoy at 452-6120 for details.

Education center news

■The University of Maryland offers two additional classes during its Term 2 schedule. Introduction to computer applications takes place Nov. 18 and 19; and introduction to Web page design takes place Dec. 2 and 3. Call 452-6637 or 0656561-6637 Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to register.

■Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers BA 408, "Airport Management," starting Nov. 17. This class can be used toward a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics. For more information, call 452-7553.

For other off-duty education needs, call the base education office 452-6063 for more information.

German-American club

Members meet for dinner Nov. 19 in the Spang Club. People interested in attending should meet in front of the pass and registration building outside the gate. Membership is not required to attend.

The price for non-club members is \$16.95. Call Gisela Traut at 452-6172 for time and other details.

Singing telegram auditions

The community center seeks singers for a singing telegram service. Adult soloists who are serious about their ability to deliver a song from the heart with or without music are needed.

Call 452-7381 to set up an audition time or for more information.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Bitburg Castle

Tonight

Remember the Titans (PG)

When the local school board of Alexandria, Va., is forced to integrate it's football team, they appoint Herman, a black man as head coach, demoting Bill, a white man to his assistant. However they work through their differences and shape a winning team.

Saturday

Remember the Titans

Sunday

Bless the Child (R)

Maggie's universe has no room for such vague concepts as good and evil. Her 6-year-old niece, Cody, is forcibly abducted. Cody is more than simply "special," she manifests extraordinary powers the forces of evil have waited centuries to control. Maggie takes on the forces of darkness in a battle for Cody's very soul.

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

The Replacements (PG-13)

A mismatched crew of outsiders gets a second chance at greatness when they are recruited to play pro football after the regular team goes on strike. As they amaze everyone with their winning streak, the ragtag group discovers in itself the ability to dream bigger.

Thursday

The Replacements

Spangdahlem Skyline

Tonight

Meet the Parents (PG-13)

Everything that could possibly go wrong for groom-to-be Greg does. The problems begin with Greg's disastrous first meeting with his girlfriend's family — most notably her intimidating father Jack — and it's all downhill from there.

Saturday

Meet the Parents

Sunday

The Cell (R)

A child therapist involved in a breakthrough research program is asked to journey inside the mind of comatose serial killer in the hope of saving his latest victim. As she embarks on an uncharted and perilous journey through the psyche of a murderer, an FBI agent must race against time to uncover clues that may help locate the missing girl.

Monday

The Cell

Tuesday

Autumn in New York (PG-13)

Will is a master of no-commitment — until he meets Charlotte, a 21-year-old free spirit. Will indulges his interest in Charlotte, expecting yet another quick and easy romance until Charlotte expresses her belief that things absolutely can't last. Will and Charlotte pursue an affair unlike any other. It is a season-long encounter that will shatter Will's preconceptions about women, sex and responsibility of real love.

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Each November, local townspeople host a colorful torch-lighted procession in honor of St. Martin.

"Sankt Martin ist ein guter Mann" (St. Martin is a good man) is only one of the many songs parents practice with their children to prepare them for the procession.

According to legend, Martin was born early in the fourth century to an officer in the military administration of the Emperor Constantine in Szombathel, Hungary. He led a good Christian life while growing up then served his time in the Roman Imperial Army.

Although other officers mistreated soldiers and slaves, Martin was kind and distributed to the poor what he could save from his pay.

While riding outside the gates of Amiens, he encountered a freezing beggar who asked for help, but Martin had already given all his pay to the poor. He drew his sword, cut his tunic in two and gave half to the beggar.

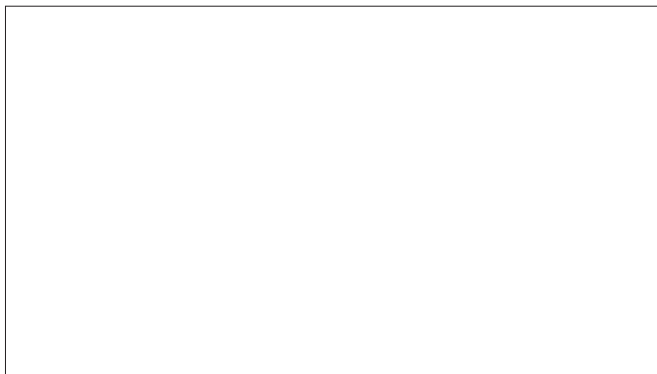
The following night, Christ appeared to Martin and said, "What you have done to the least of my brothers, you have done to me."

Martin felt the Lord's love and was baptized. After serving two more years in the army, he retired with full honors.

Although Martin was rather modest, his devotion, kindness and fairness were such that his fame spread throughout the country and he was soon appointed bishop. Martin served as the Bishop of Tours in France for 25 years until his death at age 82.

This year, St. Martin's Day is Saturday, but the dates for processions vary from town to town either by a day earlier or later.

Germans celebrate St. Martin's Day with a torch-lighted procession where children carry candles or battery-operated lanterns through the town. In some towns, firemen lead the parade with torches in hand,



Iris Reiff

Local German children show off their St. Martin's Day lanterns while eating sugar pretzels during a procession last year.

followed by the town band and then a "St. Martin" on horseback, clad in the uniform of a Roman legionnaire. The children sing St. Martin songs.

The colorfully illuminated procession ends with a bonfire. "St. Martin" then asks the children to follow his lifestyle and hands each a large sugar pretzel.

In some towns, the traditional ceremony ends with an opportunity to win a goose, the "St. Martin's Gans," and other prizes. This usually takes place at a well-known spot in town, in a hall or in a local guesthouse. Tickets for the raffle are usually sold at the door by members of the local fire department.

American families are always welcome to participate in any of the St. Martin parades. Most parades kick off between 6-7 p.m.

Lanterns can be purchased at German stores now at low prices. They're usually available as animals, especially the St. Martin goose, moons, churches and other motifs.

Here are the dates, times and locations for some local St. Martin parades:

Todays

Gondorf, 7 p.m., Hauptstrasse; Binsfeld, 6 p.m., Saalholz community hall; Wittlich, 6:30 p.m., Karstrasse; Herforst, 6:30 p.m., local church; Speicher, 6 p.m., fire station; Beilingen, 6:30 p.m., Costa Marbella Gasthaus; Landscheid, 6 p.m., Schulstrasse; Niederkill, 6 p.m., Neustrasse; Dreis, 6 p.m., local church; Bergweiler, 5:30 p.m., local church; Hetzerath, 6 p.m., Elementary school; Osann-Monzel, 6 p.m., Elementary school; Auw-Kyll, 6:30 p.m., community hall; Hosten, 6:30 p.m., community hall; Orenhofen, 6 p.m., local church; Dudeldorf, 6 p.m., Dudeldorf-Ordorf church; Biersdorf, 6 p.m., Kornmarktstrasse; Brecht, 6:30 p.m., local chapel; Messerich, 6:30 p.m., local church; Rittersdorf, 5 p.m., local church; Sefferweich, 7 p.m., community hall; Wolfsfeld, 6 p.m., Hubertus church; Pruem 6 p.m., Hahnstrasse; Luekebach, 6:30 p.m., local church; Brandscheid, 6:30 p.m., local church; Schoenecken, 6 p.m., local church.

Saturday

Spangdahlem, 6 p.m., Im Kreuzgarten; Preist, 6:30 p.m., Elementary School; Bruch, 5:30 p.m., Salmstrasse; Heckenmuenster, 6 p.m., Bendersplatz; Burg-Salm, 6 p.m., children's play ground; Sehlern, 6 p.m., local church; Minderlitten, 5:30 p.m., community hall; Platten, 5:30 p.m., Bergstrasse; Dockendorf, 6 p.m., local church; Baustert, 6 p.m., local church; Idenheim, 6:30 p.m., Hauptstrasse; Niederstedem/Oberstedem, 6 p.m., local church; Oberweiler, 6:30 p.m., community hall; Scharbillig, 6:30 p.m., community hall; Feuerscheid, 7:30 p.m., community hall.

Sunday

Ehlenz, 6 p.m., local church; Fliessen, 6 p.m., playground area; Ingendorf, 5:30 p.m., local chapel; Roethl, 6 p.m., Gasthaus Wings; Seffern, 7 p.m., school.

Out and about

■For people who like horseback riding, call the Kranz Pferdepension at 06568-7193 to make an appointment. Ferien-ranch Klaes in Wiersdorf, near Bitburg, also offers horse-riding lessons for people of all ages. Call 06569-963720.

■Enjoy the Wittlich Oct-ober festival through Saturday. The festival is located on Industriestrasse 3, near the Colosseum disco. Tables can be reserved at 06571-696-101. Entry costs 5 DM entry fee per person Friday and Saturday night.

■See "The World of puppets" exhibition Sunday through Dec. 3 in the Bitburg Beda House cultural center.

■The "Holiday on Ice: Colors of Dance" show takes place Wednesday through Nov. 19 in the Saarland hall. For tickets, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Presse Center at 0651-145990.

■Listen to religious songs by numerous choirs from the entire region at 5 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Daun Thomas-Morus church.

■Listen to folk music by the Dubliners Nov. 30 in the Mannheim Rosengarten-Musen hall. For tickets, call the Trierischer Volksfreund Presse Center at 0651-14599-0.

■Visit a flea market Sunday inside and outside the Bernkastel-Kues Gueter hall; in the Bitburg Hotel Eufelbraeu festival hall;

inside the Konz E-Center store; inside and outside the Kroev Weinbrunnen hall; inside the Trier Messepark hall; in the Leiwern Sonnenberg vacation park; and in the center of Schweich.

■Listen to religious songs by numerous choirs from the region at 5 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Daun Thomas-Morus church.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in November. Call the Spangdahlem community center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg annex community center at 453-7120 for details.

■Dinner and wineprobe, Nov. 18, \$35 per person, departs Bitburg at 4:30 p.m. and Spangdahlem at 5 p.m.

■Poland shopping express, Nov. 18-19, \$65 for a single seat and \$85 for a double, departs Spangdahlem at 9:30 p.m. and Bitburg at 10 p.m.

■Thanksgiving in Switzer-land, two overnights, Nov. 23-25, \$295 for adults, \$199 for children ages 2-12 sharing with two adults, departs Spangdahlem at 11 p.m. and Bitburg at 11:30 p.m.

■Paris express, Nov. 25, \$89 for adults and \$75 for children ages 3-17, departs Spangdahlem at 2:30 a.m. and Bitburg at 3 a.m.

■Koln Christmas market, Nov. 25, \$25 for adults and \$20 for children ages 3-12; departs Spangdahlem at 8 a.m. and Bitburg at 8:30 a.m.

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The outdoor recreation program sponsors the following trips in November. Outdoor recreation is no longer open during the weekend. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 452-7176 for details.

■Kaprun Austria Thanks-giving ski trip Nov. 23-26, \$275 or \$250 with own skis, boots and pools. Minimum age is 14.